

Written testimony in support of SB 157

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to tell my story and support SB 157. My name is T [REDACTED] Jansen. Since age three there seems to have been a push for my son, now ten, to be on medications. A concern that I have is that he is now so toxic from the drugs prescribed that his system cannot handle all of it. Also, as recently as last week I was told that there are no drugs that will truly help my child and that there are no tests that can be done so that he can improve. I believe the behaviors that he exhibits could be from adverse reactions to all these substances. What eventually will be the result of being drugged so much? When he was small I felt that he was too young to be medicated and did seek counselling for him through a mental health outpatient clinic.

The summer that he turned five, it was indicated to me that he 'needed' a mood stabilizer and at that time the Dr. gave a diagnosis of ADHD for my son. At that time he was prescribed Tenex and did not want to be at school at all and I had almost daily contact with the school because of behavioral issues. Eventually this caused me to lose my employment.

Numerous other drugs were introduced including Vyvanse which I had questions about since that is not to be given to anyone with Tourette's which is in my son's paternal medical history. I was told to trust the Dr. and everything would be just fine. This child had a SEVERE reaction when he took this for the very first time. I received a call from the school that they had this under control but in less than an hour the call came that not only was it not under control, but the police had been contacted. They withheld him from me for two hours and forced me to sign paperwork to admit him to a nearby mental health center or Psych ward. They kept him there for four days. He has never forgotten nor forgiven me for this!

Subsequently I moved away from this area and while away sought alternative treatments, which proved safer and more manageable, and had positive benefits. I've discussed these non-drug alternatives with officials at the clinic my son now attends but they won't cooperate in giving them to him, even though I feel they would turn this around.

For awhile my boy was not taking anything and then the pattern seemed to develop again with him refusing to do assignments and my being told that the school would somehow remove my son from my home. I love him and desire the very best for him in spite of the struggle with various entities.

This was followed by a pushing incident involving my oldest son against my younger son. Again the school informed me that they would resort to police intervention if anything like that happened again. At that point, I withdrew my children from the school with the plan to homeschool, but once again the school district proceeded with court related action and planned to take my sons and I had no alternative but to place them back in this school.

My oldest son is on an IEP and when they change his schedule it can be very challenging for him. Something that transpired following one of these meetings happened as recently as September of 2013. Briefly what occurred was that the local mental health center was contacted by the school but they chose to transfer this situation to yet another office. A phone camera was shoved in the face of my 9-year-old, which resulted in him having a panic attack. At this point he threw a stool, so they called me, but would not allow me to calm him down. I was in an area where I could hear my son call to me for help, but was not allowed to be with him. Next the school resource officer screamed at me that I needed to seek treatments for my son, and threw my child down and placed my 9-year-old son in handcuffs. He was then transported to the juvenile detention center and placed in foster care for four days. Once again I had to appear in court and the judge determined that this incident should NEVER have been done and ordered that they immediately allow me to go to another city to pick up my son. This registered with my son so vividly that if I say something he does not want to hear or does not like, he will retaliate with-- "I'll just call and have them take me away again."

He has been on more drugs and had more reactions than I can enumerate here. The result is that he continues to gain weight and the drugs continue to damage his internal organs at an extreme level. Only very recently the school gave me the ultimatum that I had to take photographic evidence each and every time I give this boy his meds in 'order to protect myself.' There have been instances when I've given the medicine and this boy has accidentally or deliberately told the school that he did not receive them. If the school happens to forget and trouble arises they treat it as if it is 'no big deal'!

With taking various drugs, he has started more episodes of erratic and willful behavior including threats, lying, defiance and so forth.

One agency that truly helped us formerly was the KVC. I truly need a liason or mediator or viable support network that will help me with valuable communication with this school and help my child and myself to have this cycle broken once and for all. I personally do not have funds available to seek specialists and track down other services. Thank you for your attention to everything that is recorded here.

T [REDACTED] Jansen

Kansas Citizen